



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
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William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH
October 19, 2021 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Michael Loberg, Jeff Pratt, Malcolm Boyd, Maura Valley, Richard Toole, Emma Green-Beach

Mr. Zinno called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- **Tisbury Board of Health - Proposed joint Tisbury/Oak Bluffs Nitrogen control regulations**

Ms. Lancaster shared an updated version of the regulations and the update addressing financial obligations and hardships. Mr. Loberg stated that they are comfortable with the regulations as they are but want to keep working with Oak Bluffs so that we have something that works for the watersheds we share. Ms. Lancaster walked everyone through the document and there was further discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **September 28, 2021 - Skipped**

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **MVRHS Turf Project – discussion and vote of potential further review by the Board of Health**

Ms. Lancaster stated that this is postponed because the applicant stated that key members of their team were unable to attend, so we agreed to table the discussion until November 9th and hopefully they will have answers to the questions that she asked on September 2nd for that meeting.

- **Discussion and potential vote on local mask mandate**

Ms. Lancaster stated that we've received a couple of inquiries from people either through email or over the phone inquiring about the mask mandate asking if it is something that we would consider to rescind. As the weather gets cooler people are spending more time indoors and there is less ventilation. If we were to remove the mask mandate and then numbers were to go up to then put the mandate back is a reactive measure to increasing cases versus being proactive to not increase the cases to start. Especially when we are having the seasonal change in weather and a good portion of the population cannot be vaccinated. Probably about half of our cases are breakthrough cases where the people are fully vaccinated and still testing positive and in some cases becoming ill.

Mr. Butterick stated he is in favor of keeping it in place, being proactive and keeping the number of cases down. Mr. Zinno stated that he doesn't have a problem with keeping the mandate in place especially after hearing about new variants coming out and more youth infections on the island. Mr. White asked Select Board member Emma Green-Beach how she feels about it. She did not want to comment as a Select Board member but as a resident of the town her opinion was keeping the mask mandate in place was a good idea. Mr. White agreed and does not feel the need for any change.

AGENTS UPDATE:

- **COVID updates**

Ms. Lancaster explained the test and stay program to the Board members. If a student is identified as a close contact, in order to be allowed to stay in school they will have to test for seven days in a row.

- **Air Quality Monitor Grant**

Ms. Lancaster reported that the air quality monitor grant is signed, sealed and delivered. She just had one question from them to clarify and should hear back from them in a couple of weeks. We have some good locations and hopefully we will get the grant.

- **Lagoon Ridge Approval**

Lagoon Ridge is signed, sealed and delivered. Ms. Lancaster wrote their approval letter and they did provide for the propane power generator in case of power loss so they are squared away.

- **Flu Clinic**

Flu Clinic is on Saturday, October 23rd at the Oak Bluffs School. It will be a drive through clinic only and we have about 350 doses. Children as young as six months old can attend and we do not have any high strength, senior vaccine available. We have lots of signage and provided Good Shepherd Parish notices and forms to put in the boxes of food they gave out over this past weekend. We still need some clinical volunteers and parking attendants.

Mr. Butterick made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant

DOCUMENT(S): TOWN OF TISBURY Board of Health Regulation, Section [##] Deployment of Enhanced De-Nitrification Technologies within the Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond Watershed Nitrogen Overlay Districts [Revision Dated ##.#.2020]